

# Time, Calendars, and Festivals

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# Overview of Time

In the first century, time referred to...

- The divisions of the day
- The seven days of the week
- The Sabbath
- The Jewish calendar
- Annual festivals

# Divisions of the Day

- The day begun at sunset
- In the New Testament, the days were divided into multiples of 3
- The exception to this is in Matthew 20.1-16 when he proverbializes the eleventh hour

# The Week

- The seven day week had its origins in the story of creation
- Days were not widely used for dating until the 1st century
- Weeks were centered around the Sabbath

# The Sabbath

- Work was prohibited on the Sabbath for two main reasons
  - To celebrate and worship God
  - To set holy people apart from other people
- They celebrated and worshipped God by...
  - Studying Law
  - The Commandments

# Time Structures

Common words for time

- Kairos
- Aion
- Chronos

Time was used as an allegory in Matthew

# The Calendar

- Based on lunar events
- The new moon would signal the beginning of each month
- Years consisted of 12-13 months
- Fasting was included

# Dating in the New Testament

- Notorious for failing to state dates on which events occurred
- The Gospels rarely agree with each other on when an event occurred



# Festivals

- Centered around the Jerusalem Temple
- Main festivals
  - Passover
  - Unleavened Bread
  - Pentecost
  - Booths
- Main festivals involved pilgrimage and sacrifice at the temple
- Other festivals such as Hanukkah did not include pilgrimage

# Passover

- Occurred on the 14th day of the first month
- A lamb would be sacrificed in the temple in the afternoon and eaten at night
- Jesus was crucified around the time of Passover
- Jesus became equated with the Passover lamb
- Eventually commemorating Jesus' crucifixion became part of this ritual which lead to the creation of the Christian festival Easter

# Bibliography

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